

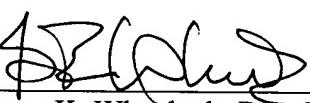


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PATENT
5237-000003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this 1st day of April, 2003 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Bryan K. Wheelock, Reg. No. 31,441

In re the Application of: Blackburn :
Serial No.: 09/895,008 : Examiner F. Prince
Filed: June 28, 2001 :
For: Advanced Aerobic Thermophilic : Group Art Unit 3669
Methods and Systems for Treating
Organic Materials

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE A

In response to the Office Action of October 1, 2001 please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Cancel claims 1-21, without prejudice.

Add new claims 22 and 23 as follows:

22. (New) A method for the aerobic thermophilic treatment of organic matter comprising passing air through organic matter in a closed reactor, recycling a portion of the air that has passed through the organic matter back through the organic matter in the reactor, removing ammonia from remaining air that has passed through the organic

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matter and releasing it from the reactor; and circulating a fluid through the reactor to remove heat therefrom, and using the heat to dry treated organic matter removed from the reactor.

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23. (New) A system for the aerobic thermophilic treatment of organic material, the system comprising a reactor for containing the organic material; an aeration system for passing air through the organic material contained in the reactor, and a recirculation system for capturing at least a portion of the air that has passed through the organic material, the recirculation system including a blower located outside of the reactor; and recycling it to the aeration system; and a system for removing ammonia form the air that has passed through the organic material before releasing it to the atmosphere.

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1 -21 without prejudice, thereby mooting the rejections of these claims. Applicant presents new claims 22 and 23 herewith.

Applicant has added new claim 22 which requires the use of heat generated by the thermophilic treatment of the organic waste, to dry the treated waste. This was described on page 11, paragraph 56 of the application, and is not shown or suggested in the references. For at least this reason, applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is allowable.

Applicant has added new claim 23, which requires a blower external to the reactor. This configuration is not shown in the prior art, and provides advantages over the arrangements shown in the prior, including protecting the recirculation system from

"foam events" in the reactor. For at least this reason, applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is allowable.

If it would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone or email the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



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